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MEMORANDUM TO: Rep. Abercrombie, Sen. Moore, Sen. Markley, Rep. Wood and other members

RE: HB 6149: An Act Concerning Coverage of Medicaid Coverage of Telemonitoring Services

SUBJECT: APRN PARTICIPATION IN TELEMEDICINE

Ma'am/Sir:

As an Army veteran with 10 years' experience as a military medical provider to an entire battalion of Special Operations Aviators during both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, I have been fortunate to have first-hand experience utilizing Military Telemedicine Services to provide remote care to my soldiers via telemedicine in many situations. Independent of our Senior Flight Surgeon, I functioned as the sole provider for a battalion of over 1000 personnel where I was responsible for the medical readiness and performance of the uninterrupted Special Operations missions. Our soldiers were continuously deployed to 3 or 4 continents simultaneously for several ongoing operations in remote areas where there were no health care providers or health care facilities. Using internet digital xray technology, satellite communication linking, video telecommunications and web-based electronic medical records, I was consistently able to effectively triage, assess and diagnose conditions, disposition and arrange for medical management of soldiers in their remote theater of deployment from my office in the continental United States. While remote physical assessment obviously has limitations, telemedicine supported the ability to safely provide quality remote care within acceptable medical standards of care in situations where it would otherwise be limited or nonexistent. When considering HB 6149, please keep in mind the APRN scope of practice and allow us to be included in the verbiage of the bill. By allowing us to provide care according to the outline of the bill, you will be increasing access, availability and adding to the quality of care for Medicaid patients.

Thank you for your consideration,

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